

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03870 060313Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 INSE-00 CIAE-00
AID-05 INR-10 /049 W
-----032554 060316Z /62

R 050540Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4019
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL NAHA
AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF , MY
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES-REJECTION OF NEW BOAT ARRIVALS

REF: (A) STATE 109486, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 0851,
(C) KUALA LUMPUR 3198

1. WE APPRECIATE THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED REFTEL A ON
THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF POSSIBLE REJECTION OF ARRIVING
REFUGEE BOATS. WE ARE CONTINUING TO MONITOR THE
SITUATION HERE FOR ANY INDICATIONS THAT THERE HAS BEEN
A RECENT CHANGE IN GOM POLICY OR THAT LOCAL
AUTHORITIES ARE, IN FACT, REJECTING REFUGEE BOATS.
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2. AT THIS TIME THE SITUATION REMAINS GENERALLY AS
IT HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THE LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND THE GOM WOULD CLEARLY PREFER THAT
THE REFUGEES GO ELSEWHERE. STRENUOUS EFFORTS
(REPORTEDLY INCLUDING FIRING WARNING SHOTS INTO THE
WATER NEAR ARRIVING BOATS) ARE MADE TO DISCOURAGE

BOATS FROM LANDING BUT THE POLICY OF THE GOM REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AS RECENTLY DESCRIBED TO THE DCM BY A SENIOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL AND REPORTED BY REFTELS B AND C. THEREFORE WE DO NOT KNOW INTEND TO MAKE TO THE GOM ANY FORMAL DEMARCHE ON THIS SUBJECT. WHEN WE RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PAROLE OF AN ADDITIONAL 25,000 REFUGEES WE INTEND TO INFORM THE GOM AND USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN URGE THE GOM TO CONTINUE THEIR POLICY OF PROVIDING TEMPORARY ASYLUM PENDING RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE.

3. REPORTS FROM THE EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICER AND THE JVA REP. BOTH NOW ON THE EAST COAST, HAVE MADE TWO POINTS WHICH BEAR DIRECTLY ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER BOATS ARE BEING REJECTED. THE FIRST IS THAT NO BOATS ARE ALLOWED TO LAND IMMEDIATELY. IN EVERY CASE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONDUCT THOROUGH SEARCHES FOR WEAPONS AND DRUGS WHILE THE BOAT IS KEPT OFFSHORE. WHEN THE SEARCH IS COMPLETE AND NO PROHIBITED ITEMS ARE FOUND, THEN THE BOAT IS ALLOWED TO LAND AND THE REFUGEES ARE ADMITTED TO A CAMP (ALTHOUGH IN MANY CASES THE REFUGEES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT IMMEDIATELY). SECONDLY, THE SHEER VOLUME OF BOATS WHICH ARE NOW ARRIVING HERE MEANS THAT REPORTS OF BOATS NOT BEING ALLOWED TO LAND WILL, OF COURSE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MULTIPLY. NONETHELESS, SHOULD OUR OFFICERS BE MADE AWARE OF ANY BOAT IN DANGER OF REJECTION, WE WILL CARRY OUT IMMEDIATELY THE PROCEDURE DETAILED IN PARA 2, REFTEL A.
MILLER

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